

NCE moves forward with new substation Plans to start excavating in the spring

Nobles Cooperative Electric (NCE) has plans to construct a new high-voltage, 115 kV/7,200 kV distribution substation in Larkin Township on Highway 91 near Lismore. The targeted energized date is 2020.

One of NCE's main goals from an operation's standpoint is to have all Legacy substations intertwined with all the former Alliant substations. This will allow them to be backfed. The new substation will offer backfeeding opportunities to the Adrian, Bloom and Chandler Substations.

The cooperative has entered into an agreement for the purchase of four acres. (21-11-34) NCE has also gained approval from the county commissioners and will build the substation to replace three older substations. The Lismore Substation's location is limited in accessibility and is sinking in the ground. The Lismore City Substation (former Alliant) is only a 2,400 volt system and is fed off of a 24 kV line. Its move will offer more reliability to members. The Wilmont Substation (former Alliant) is an old wooden structure that has become obsolete.

The number of meters served by each of the substations are:

- Lismore Substation: 371
- Lismore City Substation: 141
- Wilmont Substation: 291

The replacement of these substations will improve system reliability and safety, while also having easy access off of Highway 91. "This is an opportunity to provide more reliable service to our members," stated Brian Postma, Line Superintendent.

A soil and environmental study is planned to take place before breaking ground in 2019.

In addition to enhancing reliability, this system will decrease the time needed for restorations during power outages. It will also provide capacity for economic growth. The substation is a \$1.3 million investment. "Money will be borrowed from the Rural Utilities Service," explained Postma. "It is like buying a house with a low-interest rate. You don't have to pay for the whole thing up front, it is spread out over time. This is truly a 40-to-50 year investment with great enhancements for members of NCE."

Energy saving tip

Got holiday leftovers? When possible, use the microwave to reheat food. Microwaves use as much as 80 percent less energy than a standard oven. *Source: energy.gov*

Mark your calendar

Nov. 22Happy Thanksgiving!

Our offices will be closed November 22 and 23, but linemen will be on call for outages.

Nov. 25 Electric bills due



Spot your location number in *Current Matters*

Find your location number (as it appears on your monthly electric bill) in this issue and you will receive a \$10 credit.



A word from your General Manager **Adam Tromblay**

FALL INTO ENERGY SAVINGS

Contact us for more energy-saving tips!

- Check to see if your home insulation levels are up to par.
- Seal air leaks around doors, windows and electrical outlets.
- When heating your home, set the thermostat to 68 degrees to save energy.

We're thankful for your membership

“Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it.”

In the spirit of this quote by author William Arthur Ward, I'd like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude for your membership in our electric cooperative. Because of your connection to NCE, we are able to make our community a better place.

I generally (40-24-70) use this space to provide updates on new projects and developments, and report on the progress of ongoing initiatives. We share these updates so that all of our consumer-members have a window into our priorities, progress and challenges. However, during this season of giving thanks, I think it's equally important to let you and other consumer-members of NCE know just what an impact you have on our co-op and the greater community, likely in ways you may not even realize.

As part of the cooperative business model, one of our core principles is “Concern for Community.” While our priority is always to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy, we view our role in the community as a catalyst for good.

We work closely with our local schools to provide safety demonstrations, award college scholarships, attend career fairs and offer job shadowing. The cooperative also participates in an annual Youth Tour where we take our community's brightest young people to Washington, D.C. for a week-long immersion to experience democracy in action. The trip is inspirational for many students, and we are both humbled and honored to be a part of this leadership development journey. Ultimately, the larger community benefits from these programs because of you! You empower the co-op through your membership and through your participation in and support of these programs.

When you attend co-op events, alert us to problems, provide suggestions online or to our employees, you help us improve operations and thereby better serve the larger co-op membership.

Because we are locally governed

by members of our community, we are able to get a first-hand perspective on community priorities, thereby enabling us to make more informed decisions on equipment and technology upgrades and electric vehicle programs.

We are thankful that our co-op board members carve out time to attend important training sessions, participate in planning meetings and keep abreast of industry trends. This investment in time results in better informed advisors that serve the co-op's interests in a way that our consumer-members expect and deserve.

(12-30-30) On a more personal note, we appreciate the countless acts of kindness our lineworkers and other employees receive when they are working in severe weather and dangerous conditions. Our employees are thankful for your patience and consideration when we are trying to restore power during challenging situations and prolonged periods.

NCE was originally established 82 years ago to bring electricity to our area when no one else would. The cooperative is a reflection of our local community and its evolving needs. Together, let's continue making our corner of the world a better place. We can't do it without you, and for that, we're thankful for your membership.

THANKFUL



It's a shame that holiday lighting can lead to higher energy bills, but the good news is, there are strategies that can save you money without dampening your holiday spirit!

One of the best ways to save energy is LED lights, which use about 80 percent less energy than incandescent bulbs. The amount of money you can save depends on a lot of factors, including your electric rate and how many hours your holiday lights are turned on.

We've seen a number of savings estimates in energy costs. One report said that replacing five strings of traditional incandescent outdoor lights with LED bulbs could lower your bill from about \$14 to 22 cents. Another report said that replacing incandescent lights on a typical indoor tree with LED bulbs could lower your monthly cost from \$15 to \$2.

The reason incandescent bulbs are so (23-41-32) inefficient is that at least 90 percent of their energy is converted into heat, not light. LEDs, by contrast, convert virtually all their energy to light. This means up to 20 strings of LED lights can be linked together, whereas incandescent sets are typically limited to between three and five strings in a

chain. The efficiency of LED lights also makes them safer because they generate so much less heat.

Aside from their energy efficiency, LED lights can last longer—around 200,000 hours or more, which is about 25 times longer than incandescent lights. The bulb is more durable because it is made of an epoxy instead of glass.

But not all LEDs are created equal. An LED that is not designed properly can flicker, change color or draw power even when it's turned off. To avoid these problems, purchase ENERGY STAR®-rated LEDs. To qualify for the ENERGY STAR rating, LED products must use 75 percent less energy than incandescent lighting and pass a number of additional tests.

There are other ways to cut energy expenses. You can use decorative solar light sets, which store energy during the day and release light during the night. Timers are also a good idea because they can reduce energy use, especially if you don't always remember to turn the lights off before bedtime.

We hope these tips help raise your holiday spirits without giving you the budget blues in January!



Learn more about the iRobot Roomba Vacuum

Robotic vacuums and floor cleaning robots have slowly been on the rise since they first hit the market around the turn of the century. Today's robotic vacuums have drastically improved over those 18 years with one of the standout companies being iRobot. The Roomba automatically adjusts to carpets, rugs or hard surfaces, Roomba can transition seamlessly to any room, on one level of your home.

The Wi-Fi connected Roomba 675 Robot Vacuum (\$299.99) is just fine for routine cleaning in a home that is pet-free and allows for scheduled cleaning. It is compatible with Amazon Alexa and the Google Assistant.

The Roomba i7+ (\$949.99) is the "top of the line" model currently offered by iRobot. The i7+ Roomba advertises a big improvement from the smaller models. It allows the unit to return to the base to empty the dust/debris bin into a disposable bag that can hold 30 robot bins. With new features like Imprint Smart Mapping and iAdapt 3.0, the Roomba can navigate through an entire level of your home and create visual landmarks of where it's been and where it has yet to clean.

For those tech savvy members that don't like cleaning, this may be the item just for you!

October Auto Pay Winner is Kriene Kramer!

Take a minute to sign up for Auto Pay and you may win a \$25 bill credit. A winner is chosen each month.

TIPS FOR PURCHASING NEW APPLIANCES

In the market for a new appliance? Remember, every appliance has two prices:

1. Purchase price: Think of this as a down payment.

2. Operating cost over the appliance's lifetime: What you'll be paying for the appliance's energy use for the next 10 to 20 years.

TIP: The EnergyGuide label will include the estimated annual energy cost.

Did you know?

Attention military personnel

Minnesota law provides that a public utility must not disconnect the utility service of a residential member for nonpayment, that has been issued orders into active military duty, for deployment or for a permanent change in duty station, provided that they enter into an agreement with the utility to make payments towards their bill. Forms are available upon request.

Are you exempt from sales tax?

If you use electricity for agricultural or industrial purposes, this reminder (539-38-201) will interest you. Electricity used in this manner may be exempt from sales tax.

To obtain relief from state sales tax, file for an exemption with our office. Contact the cooperative, find the form online or drop in to complete a ST3 form.

If you have electric heat, you may benefit from sales tax relief

If electricity is your primary source of residential heat, the kilowatts used for heating your home are exempt from sales tax. Primary means 50 percent or more of your heating. The heating season is six months long from November to April.

If you have signed a fuel exemption form in the past, your record is automatically retained. To sign up for exemption, please give our office a call or fill out a form online.

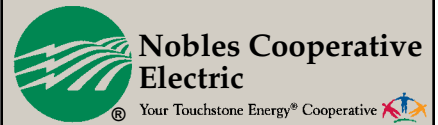
Country Cupboard Easy Cabbage Casserole

Darlene Hammerschmidt
Fulda

- 1 med. head cabbage
- 1 lb. ground beef
- 1 onion
- 1 can tomato soup (or tomato rice)
- 1 can cream of mushroom soup
- 1 pkg. grated cheese (small)

Cut cabbage into pieces and place in a 9 x 13" pan. Fry beef and onion (drain off fat). Pour over cabbage. Mix the soups together and pour over. Top with cheese and bake at 350 degrees for 35 minutes.

Send your favorite chili recipe to Nobles Cooperative Electric, ATTN: Tracey, P.O. Box 788, Worthington, MN 56187-0788. Entries must include your name, address, telephone number and NCE location number. All entries must be received by November 25. The winning recipe will be featured in the next edition of *Current Matters* and the winner will receive a **\$10 credit** on their electric bill.



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Next Board Meeting

December 19, 2018

This cooperative is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

